

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3874

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AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

CINCSO

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2473

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, DR

SUBJ: CABINET CHANGES AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS

REF: SD 2460

PARIS FOR AMBASSADOR HURWITCH

1. DECREE ISSUED LAST NIGHT BY PRESIDENT BALAGUER NAMING
FORMER REAR ADMIRAL (NOW COMMODORE) RAMON EMILIO JIMENEZ, JR.
AS SECRETARY OF STATE OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AND MAJ GENERAL
ENRIQUE PEREZ Y PEREZ AS SECRETARY OF STATE OF INTERIOR AND
POLICE COULD BE THE DENOUEMENT OF THE RECENT POLITICAL-
MILITARY CISIS. ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE TWO MILITARY LEADERS
WERE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THERE
WERE REPORTS OF RESISTANCE, OR RELUCTANCE, OF ONE OR BOTH OF
THEM TO ACCEPT VARIOUS PROPOSALS. GENERAL BELIEF HERE WAS
THAT RESOLUTION OF THE CRISIS WOULD DEPEND ON KINDS OF
ASSIGNMENTS FOUND FOR JIMENEZ AND PEREZ Y PEREZ.

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2. JIMENEZ HAD BEEN KNOWN TO BE WILLING TO ACCEPT A DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENT ABROAD. AMBASSADORSHIP TO LONDON HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. AS FOREIGN SECRETARY HE WILL ENJOY PRESTIGE ALMOST COMPARABLE TO THAT OF HIS FORMER POSITION. AT THE SAME TIME HE WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE ARENA OF MILITARY RIVALRIES.

3. JIMENEZ IS KNOWN FOR HIS PRO-AMERICAN SYMPATHIES. HE IS A POLITICAL CONSERVATIVE AND A STRONG ANTI-COMMUNIST, OPPOSED TO LIFTING CUBAN SANCTIONS OR REESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH CUBA. IN ANY CASE, BECAUSE PRESIDENT BALAGUER RESERVES FOR HIMSELF ALL FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS OF SUBSTANCE, THE CHANGE OF FOREIGN SECRETARIES SHOULD HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THIS COUNTRY'S FOREIGN RELATIONS.

4. THIS IS PEREZ Y PEREZ' THIRD STINT AS SECRETARY OF STATE OF INTERIOR AND POLICE AND THE SECOND TIME HE HAS HELD IT WHILE HIS RIVAL NEIT NIVAR SEIJAS WAS CHIEF OF POLICE. POSITION OF INTERIOR SECRETARY IS UNDEMANDING SINCE PRINCIPAL ENTITIES IN THE MINISTRY, NOTABLY POLICE, ARCHIVES AND IMMIGRATION, REPORT DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT. HOWEVER, THERE ARE OCCASIONS ON WHICH INTERIOR AND NATIONAL POLICE MUST CONSULT AND COOPERATE. BALAGUER MAY HAVE CALCULATED, BY HIS MOVE, TO FORCE PEREZ AND NIVAR TO WORK TOGETHER BUT PEREZ-NIVAR ANIMOSITY, NOW AT ITS HEIGHT, WILL MAKE RELATIONS DIFFICULT. WE BELIEVE NIVAR WILL CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO HARASS PEREZ Y PEREZ LOYALISTS IN AND OUT OF NATIONAL POLICE AND WE EXPECT PEREZ Y PEREZ TO USE HIS NEW CABINET POSITION AND HIS ACCESS TO PRESIDENT TO DEFEND HIS FOLLOWERS AND TO WORK FOR TERMINATION OF NIVAR'S ASSIGNMENT AS CHIEF OF POLICE.

5. ALTHOUGH LAST TENSIONS OF POLITICAL CRISIS STEMMING FROM MILITARY RESIGNATIONS ARE NOW DISSOLVING, TROUBLESOME SITUATION WILL REMAIN WHILE NIVAR AND PEREZ Y PEREZ HOLD THEIR CURRENT RESPECTIVE POSITIONS. PRESIDENT'S UNACCUSTOMED SPEED IN FINDING ASSIGNMENTS FOR JIMENEZ AND PEREZ Y PEREZ REDUCED DANGERS, HOWEVER. WHILE PEREZ Y PEREZ WAS WITHOUT ASSIGNMENT THERE WAS WIDESPREAD BELIEF THAT HE WOULD EVENTUALLY RESORT TO VIOLENCE IN DEFENSE OF HIS FRIENDS.

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6. AMONG THE LATEST CHANGES, BUT WITHOUT MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE, INTERIOR SECRETARY FERNANDO AMIAMA TIO MOVED OVER TO BE SECRETARY OF STATE OF LABOR AND ARTURO MUNIZ MARTE, THE FORMER INCUMBENT, JOINED, WITH VICTOR GOMEZ BERGES, THE LONG LIST OF SECRETARIES OF STATE WITHOUT PORTFOLIO AND WITH RESPONSIBILITIES YET TO BE DETERMINED.

7. BRIG GENERAL SALVADOR LLUBERES MONTAS, FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE AND REPORTEDLY A PRIME MOVER BEHIND THE JOINT RESIGNATIONS OF THE MILITARY LEADERS, HAS NOT YET RECEIVED A NEW ASSIGNMENT. NAVY CAPTAIN (FORMER COMMODORE AND CHIEF OF STAFF) MANUEL LOGRONO CONTIN WHO RESIGNED HIS POSITION BUT PLAYED NO IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE CRISIS, IS ALSO AWAITING REASSIGNMENT.
AXELROD

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